



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



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### More rifles and wrinkles for AF recruits

Web Posted: 11/22/2005 12:00 AM CST

Scott Huddleston

Express-News Staff Writer

Is the airman who rolls his undies better prepared for the war on terror?

Could be, since the 16 hours once spent training Air Force recruits to meticulously fold their T-shirts, shorts and socks now will be spent on rifle and field training, leaving airmen to roll their skivvies as if they were in the — *gasp* — Navy.

In the end, Air Force officials said, lives will be saved.

"We're very excited about where we're headed. It's about time," said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Sargent, superintendent of Air Force basic training.

Welcome to the brave new Air Force world, where a new age of warfare has forced the ramping up of basic training so that young recruits will be engrained with a 21st century "warrior ethos" from the get-go.

Precision and order are virtues in the Air Force culture. But when the service studied the way recruits used their time, it found that two days were spent learning to fold their T-shirts in 6-inch squares.

So the exacting and time-honored military discipline of folding T-shirts and underwear according to regulation will become a lost art at Lackland AFB, where recruits are turned into airmen in six weeks.

To replicate a real deployment, the new training follows the Air Expeditionary Force's three-part deployment cycle — used since the mid-1990s to mobilize airpower — of preparation, deployment and recovery.

"Basically, the goal is to establish a warrior ethos in the airmen," Sargent said. "We send a message that, regardless of the reason they joined, whether it's educational opportunities or technical training, they're warriors first and foremost."

In the past, recruits spent their first week in classrooms, learning about noncombat topics. Now they're being prepared for a combat environment and warned about the psychological stresses of war early on in training. They're taught weapons training, security, first aid and other war skills and go through a mock predeployment briefing early in the course.

Col. Gina Grosso, commander of Lackland's 737th Training Group, said: "It takes a different kind of airman to be successful in these kinds of engagements. When you've got an enemy who's got a bomb strapped to their chest, there's a different kind of risk."



(Billy Calzada/Express-News)

Tech. Sgt. James Dill holds the Air Force's new M-16 trainer rifle, which will soon replace the old rubber rifles.

*San Antonio Express News*

PAGE:

POSTED: 22 Nov 05



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Some Air Force officers want to see basic training grow to 10 weeks, comparable to training in the Army and Marines.

Sargent said he hopes the service will get funding next year to lengthen its course to seven weeks in 2008, allowing for more classroom war training.

"We really need an additional five days," he said.

Over the next year, some 38,000 airmen, including 8,000 Guard and Reserve members, are expected to go through basic training at Lackland.

Their parents can be assured that the Air Force is trying to get those recruits ready for today's brand of warfare, Grosso said.

"We have worked very hard to retool basic training to meet that challenge," she said.

The Air Force routinely reviews its basic course every three years, but it moved its latest review up a year in response to concerns from officers that airmen in Iraq weren't coping well in a country where insurgency is a constant threat.

The result: more time with the rifle, less with the undies.

"We need an airman," Sargent said, "that's more comfortable in a war environment."

*San Antonio Express News*

**PAGE:**

**POSTED: 22 Nov 05**



# AETC News Clips

## Altus AFB, Okla.



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# Lucas lands \$750,000 for widening of Falcon Road

Washington, D.C — U.S. Third District Congressman Frank Lucas has secured \$750,000 in funding to widen Falcon Road in Altus. The funding was included in a spending bill that passed the U.S. House on Friday.

"I am pleased we were able to acquire funding to continue this important project," Lucas said. "This has been a high priority for Altus city leaders for many years."

The funding will be used to continue the expansion of Falcon Road, the primary artery from the center of Altus into Altus Air Force Base, from two lanes to four lanes between Park Lane and Veterans Drive.

The city has seen continued property development in the area, further emphasizing the need for widening the road.

"Recent commercial development has resulted in problems for traffic in and out of Altus Air Force Base," Lucas said. "This funding will help make the necessary improvements to Falcon Road to improve the flow of traffic."

Lucas also congratulated Altus Mayor T.L. Gramling and city leaders for their continued efforts on the project.

The funding was included in a transportation bill that passed the House on Friday by a vote of 392 to 31. When the Senate passes the legislation it will be sent to the president for his signature to become law.

Last year, Lucas secured \$1.25 million for Falcon Road, which was used to fund the first phase of widening the road between Main Street and Veterans Drive.



# AETC News Clips

## Columbus AFB, Miss.



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### CAFB graduates its 10,000th pilot

By Earl Descant  
edescant@cdispatch.com

Friday's pilot training class commencement ceremonies at Columbus Air Force Base were punctuated with a milestone as 2nd Lt. Kelly L. Nettleblad from Longmont, Colo., was announced as the 14th Flying Wing's 10,000th graduate.

With the 25 graduates filing across the stage, and Col. Stephen Wilson, CAFB wing commander, pinning a new set wings on each uniform, the announcer suddenly took a break from the usual recitation of name and location and where the pilot would next be stationed, to speak up that the next graduate would be No. 10,000.

Nettleblad was next in line.

Nettleblad admitted she was "surprised" to hear her name called at that moment, but her excitement was mostly over graduating.

"Well, it's obviously been a really long year, and I'm

happy to be graduating," said Nettleblad, 24, who also attended the U.S. Air Force Academy.

And she's also not going too far. Her next assignment is CAFB where she will become a T-38 pilot instructor.

"Today is a great day for our Air Force," said Gen. William R. Looney III, commander of Air Education Training, based at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Looney, whose first assignment in 1972, was as a pilot-trainer at CAFB, the year 14th Flying Wing was formed. Looney delivered Friday's commencement address.

"That's 33 years that the wing has been doing this mission. Given the fact that my first assignment was a T38 instructor here in Columbus, and I helped create some of those ten-thousands, I was excited about the opportunity to come back and participate in the graduation," added Looney.



CAFB/Courtesy Photo

Gen. William R. Looney III, commander of Air Education and Training Command, congratulates 2nd Lt. Kelly Nettleblad, the 10,000th undergraduate pilot training student produced by the 14th Flying Training Wing.

*The Commercial Dispatch*

PAGE: 14A

ISSUE DATE: 20 Nov 05





# AETC News Clips

## Columbus AFB, Miss.



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### 'Stay the course' in Iraq, says general during visit to CAFB

By Earl Descant  
edescant@cdispach.com

With support for the war in Iraq waning—nearly two-thirds of the country disapproves of the Bush Administration's conduct of the war, according to an AP-Ipsos poll, and with some members of Congress now calling for a scaling back of American forces—senior members of the military are saying the war is challenging, but necessary.

"Stay the course. We don't cut and run," said Air Force Gen. William R. Looney III, commander of the Air Education and Training Command, in his remarks to the pilot graduating class at Columbus Air Force Base Friday.

In remarks after the graduation, Looney went on to add the "War on Terror" is not about Iraq, but Iraq is where the battle is being fought.

"In today's situation, this is not another country's war," said Looney making references to what he sees



Looney

are differences between Iraq and Vietnam.

"Vietnam was a war that was about creating a nation for a group of people so they could enjoy the principles of democracy," Looney said.

"Unfortunately, for lots of reasons our nation decided to stop that effort and walk away from it. Now when we did that, what we left behind was that country and their war," he added.

Conversely, Looney says today's war is one fought for American "values and our beliefs."

"This is not Iraq's war. This is our war," Looney stressed. "It just happens

*"This is not Iraq's war. This is our war. It just happens that the battle that's being fought right now is in Iraq. In another few years it could be fought in another location."*

**Gen. William R. Looney III**  
*Commander of the Air Education and Training Command*

that the battle that's being fought right now is in Iraq. In another few years it could be fought in another location," he added.

"Vietnam was not about our values and our beliefs. And if we walk away from this, my concern is that we will ourselves be under attack here, versus dealing with it in other places, on the offensive," Looney continued. "And that will

#### RELATED STORY, 14A

become very, very challenging, very, very difficult for our country."

Visiting Osan Air Base in South Korea Saturday, President Bush, his war policies under siege at home, said there would be no early troop withdrawal because "sober judgment" must prevail over emotional calls to end the military mission before Iraq is stabilized.

"We will fight the terrorists in Iraq. We will stay in the fight until we have achieved the victory that our

brave troops have fought for," Bush told thousands of American troops spilling out of a cold hangar at the U.S. military installation 40 miles south of Seoul.

"The defense of freedom is worth our sacrifice."

The speech added the president's voice, from thousands of miles away, to a nasty debate in Congress over his Iraq policies and the timing of any U.S. withdrawal. It also continued a rapid-fire White House counterattack against the president's newly aggressive war critics.

*This article includes reporting by the Associated Press.*



# AETC News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, Texas



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**22 Nov 05**

### Sheppard to receive \$36 million

Federal military funding to go toward construction

By Tara Copp/Scripps Howard News Service  
November 19, 2005, Page 1A

WASHINGTON - Sheppard Air Force Base will get \$36 million in federal military construction funding, as the base moves past the realignments of the 2005 base closure round and forward with the continued expansion of its sprawling campus.

The money for Sheppard will fund a \$3 million warehouse for the T-6 turboprop aircraft trainers that will replace Sheppard's aging T-37s and \$33 million for another 300-room student dormitory.

"The significant thing is that the modernization at Sheppard continues," said Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee. "Even after BRAC, we're getting \$36 million in new construction funds to make sure we stay at the top of the heap for new missions and our existing missions."

The money comes from the \$6.2 billion military construction appropriations bill for 2006, it was approved by both the House and Senate Friday. It now moves to the President for his signature. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, chairs the Senate Military Construction Appropriations subcommittee and has pushed Sheppard's dormitory housing funding each year. Hutchison said the Sheppard funding was part of millions of dollars in upgrades that bases statewide will receive.

"I am pleased Congress has passed this legislation, which will add more than \$218 million for Texas base improvements," Hutchison said.

Even bases that were closed by the 2005 BRAC commission are set to receive millions of dollars in construction spending, such as Ellington Field in Houston. Similar funding has passed after previous base closure rounds, too, since the base itself won't close for several years. There are also efforts under way to reconstitute Ellington, particularly since it was used to evacuate hundreds of victims during Hurricane Katrina.

The biggest statewide recipient for construction funding was Fort Hood, which is set to receive \$64 million for a variety of base improvements. Other bases receiving funding include:

- \$7 million to renovate barracks and battalion command facilities at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio;
- \$5 million for a vehicle bridge project and \$137,000 for the Biggs Gate traffic alleviation project at Fort Bliss in El Paso;
- \$1.75 million for an aircraft facility and \$300,000 for the Joint Ground Support Equipment Complex at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base;
- \$15 million for Phase 1 of the Armed Forces Reserve Center/Battle Projection Center at Ellington Field in Houston;

*Times Record News*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 22 Nov 05**



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- \$11 million to Lackland AFB in San Antonio to replace the Military Working Dog Medical Facility;
- \$7.9 million to Dyess AFB in Abilene to replace 190 units of family housing;
- \$4.3 million to Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo for a Chapel Center;
- \$7.9 million to Laughlin AFB in San Antonio for an aircraft maintenance complex;
- \$5.6 million to build the 2nd phase of the Grand Prairie Army Reserve Center;
- \$16 million to Naval Air Station Kingsville for a T-10 Jet Engine Test Cell and Airfield Lighting.

*Times Record News*  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 22 Nov 05**